Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a

#### REQUEST **FOR**

## **CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

	tent and Trademark Office: U	PTO/SB/30 (08-00) through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031 J.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE it displays a valid OMB control number.	_
	Application Number	10/072,931	7
Ξ)	Filing Date	February 12, 2002	auxon
	First Named Inventor	Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al.	
	Group Art Unit	2812	_
tion	Examiner Name	S. Isaac	
	Attorney Docket Number	0756-2433	

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application. NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

a. Previously submitted  i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on	1.	Ls	ubmi	ssion	requ	uired und	er 37 C.F.I	R. § 1.114	7							
i. Consider the amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).  ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on									_							
ii.   Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on   iii.   Other			i.		Со	onsider th	ne amendm					reviously filed on				_
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3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.  a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No.  i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)  ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)  iii. Other  b. Check in the amount of \$1.866.00 enclosed  c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)  SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED  Name (Print/Type) Eric J. Robinson Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 38,285  Signature Date October 30, 2002 BBB  CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION BBB Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or faesimile transmitted to the CB. Patent and Trademark Office on:  Name (Print/Type) Ava M. Dixon		a.	_	Susp	pens						-			•	1 01	
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Name (Print/Type) Eric J. Robinson Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 38,285  Signature Date October 30, 2002 BBB  CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the Rate and Trademark Office on:  Name (Print/Type) Ava M. Dixon		c.	<u> </u>	Payı	meni	nt by crea	it card (For	m PTO-203	8 enclosed)				-			
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Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent tot he Chief Information Office J.J.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS: SEED Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

Docket No. 0756-2433

# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: S. Isaac

In re Patent Application of ) Art Unit: 2812

Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al. )

Serial No. 10/072,931

Filed: February 12, 2002

For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING) Date: October 30, 2002

A SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the above-identified application as follows:

#### IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 46-77 as follows:

--46. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising:

forming a first semiconductor film having an amorphous structure over a substrate;

providing the first semiconductor film with a material for promoting crystallization;

heating the first semiconductor film for crystallizing;

irradiating the first semiconductor film with a laser light for improving

crystallinity;

forming a barrier layer over the first semiconductor film having crystalline

structure;

forming a second-semiconductor-film-over-the barrier layer;

forming a third semiconductor film over the second semiconductor film, they third semiconductor film comprising an inert gas element;

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